

EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

20 April 1956

Present

Members: Richard Bauer, Army  
John Shearer, Navy

[REDACTED] 25X1A

[REDACTED] 25X1A

Consultants:

[REDACTED] 25X1A

1. The 69th meeting convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 68th meeting were approved.

2. Continuation of the examination of the Eastern Europe Program

Poland

Army: Mr. Bauer, referring to item B.3, expressed the view that sources other than FDD did not meet the needs of Army for information on public health, sanitation, population and manpower. He requested that a statement of these needs be carried in Tab B, should FDD be unable to afford coverage of the subjects. Mr. Bauer suggested also that in reporting on Communications, item C.10, emphasis be placed on the practical developments rather than theoretical applications. The suggestion was generally acceptable, and the item was restated as "New Telecommunication Facilities and Equipment."

Navy: Mr. Shearer stated Navy's desire to have water transportation included in item C.9. If this were not feasible he would want the subject given high priority in Tab B.

Air: Mr. Bauer, representing Air, said that Air was satisfied with the program as presented.

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CIA: [REDACTED] felt that the Eastern Europe program, as presently constituted and operating, was basically good, sound, and well-balanced, and should continue with certain modifications and refinements to be achieved through liaison.

Specifically, however, he had a proposal which he hoped would generate discussion. He wished to recommend a different presentation for the Advisory Committee than the present Tabs A and B, one that would show coverage of all subjects but with emphasis or coverage in depth of some subjects (Tab A) and partial or light coverage of those which remain (Tab B). The latter then, would be a request for increase in over-all manpower or funds, with specific justification of the fields where the additional manpower is needed. Such a presentation, he felt, would be simpler and more emphatic.

Navy: Mr. Shearer asked if he was correct in assuming that the present arrangement of Tabs A and B do not imply any priority.

The Chairman replied that this was correct, and added that Tabs A and B were not meant to establish with any finality the exact decimal of a man which is to be applied to a particular subject. The manpower heading is provided by FDD for the guidance and help of the members in reaching some concept of the manpower involved on a certain subject. He hoped that the members would not regard these as commitments by FDD.

Mr. Bauer commented that the draw-back he saw in the proposal was that it would require FDD to continue a superficial coverage of subjects rather than coverage in depth. He doubted that FDD following [REDACTED] recommendation could contribute the unique information which it alone can supply. Exploitation of the military publications particularly would be affected since most of the useful information is buried in press items, which require close scanning.

[REDACTED] suggested that his proposal may not apply equally to all subjects. For economic coverage it might be desirable to specify that the emphasis should be given to more periodicals than newspapers in certain fields. Much of the current information which is of relatively little lasting value is provided by the monitoring services and press summaries. The periodicals are not well covered by those sources.

Mr. Bauer commented that very often the provincial newspapers will cover items which do not appear in the central press. He believed that, in general, the trade journals are fairly well covered, and that as far as contracting is concerned there is more merit in contracting periodicals than newspapers.

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The Chairman stated that, essentially, in developing Tab B by utilizing contractual facilities there should be no hard line drawn. The periodicals or newspapers most productive of the required information should be exploited.

Rumania

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██████████ remarked that a personnel loss since Tab A was originally presented necessitated some rearrangements of subjects and manpower on Rumania. The current manpower allocation was as follows: Military Information, two tenths; Scientific News Items, two tenths; Political, eight tenths; Agriculture, four tenths; Petroleum (production only), three tenths; and Manufacturing Industries, three tenths. The reduced manpower required the elimination from Tab A of all sociological subjects and the limitation of reporting on manufacturing industries to annual production figures, new products and developments, and plant construction or expansion.

Army: Mr. Bauer requested that Army's interest in public health and sanitation be noted in Tab B, if it could not be included in Tab A.

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CIA: ██████████ asked that an effort be made to report any new petroleum pipeline developments, in addition to petroleum production.

Upon Mr. Shearer's query as to whether military information would be derived from emigre publications only, Mr. Kreeger stated that current intent was to emphasize the indigenous rather than emigre sources, and the phrase "from emigre sources" should be stricken from Tab A.

Navy: Mr. Shearer remarked that Navy, if pressed, would have to admit that it was interested in Tab A.1 and only slightly in other subjects. He did not, therefore, wish to press for inclusion in Tab A of any one economic item at the expense of others. He did, however, want to note the Navy's interest in water transportation.

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CIA: ██████████ expressed concern over the size of some of the manpower estimates in Tab B. He suggested that moderate increases in personnel might receive a more favorable review by the Advisory Committee, and believed it would be undesirable for the subcommittee to endorse a large increase of personnel which might not be required as time goes on.

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The Chairman remarked that it was the prerogative of members to recommend more modest manpower figures, but felt that once the review of all area programs and the consolidation of Tab B have been completed, the members would be able to see more clearly the picture of what is required and be in a better position to make recommendations.

NSA: Miss Bernbach said NSA is satisfied with the program and supports the Navy's request for emphasis on water transportation.

Yugoslavia

Army: Mr. Bauer stated that Army accepted the program as presented, however, with the recommendation that manpower be added in Tab B.

Mr. Bauer, speaking for Air, stated Air was satisfied.

Navy: Mr. Shearer noted that there was no mention of shipbuilding as a subject. He asked whether it could be assumed to be included in transportation when it was significant to warrant reporting, or will it appear as a separate item.

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██████████ stated that information on shipbuilding would normally be included in Manufacturing.

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CIA: ██████████ remarked that CIA was satisfied.

Mr. Shearer referred to the last meeting regarding the review of requirements for information on East Germany. After canvassing the E. German desks, ONI's position is that they can concur in the proposal for de-emphasis but they would, if it is possible, like to see the continuation of the E. German military in the Satellite military summary.

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Mr. Bauer stated that Army would like to see E. Germany dropped.

██████████ was not willing to endorse a radical reduction since he understood that in practice there already has been a considerable drop amounting to 1/3 the manpower.

He did not at this time have a final answer. The impression he received was that analysts do not want to see it cut but again would not seriously object.

The Chairman asked whether members felt there was a great deal of duplication on East Germany.

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Mr. Bauer referred to the official documents of the ministries, individual factories, and research installations which he believed were available, and noted that in addition there was the interrogation of defectors to rely on. He concluded that there are analysts who have always been afraid to let something go regardless of whether it is needed or not.

At the close of the meeting, [REDACTED] requested that the sub-committee consider the following changes to be made in Tab A, China, when members review that area in the examination of the Communist Far East which is the agenda for the next meeting:

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Tab A

X. China

- A 2. add: relationships with other Asian Communist parties.
- A 5. Change Honan to Nanfang and Hunan to Ch'ang-chiang
- B Military: add: "and Internal Security"
- B 8. add: "Also Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peiping."
- D 18. line 5 delete: "Semi-annual," replace with "quarterly, national"
- 19. Delete all following "Light Industry" and add:  
"Quarterly national reports and high level criticism of operations"
- 20. Line 2 add: "and reports"
- 24. add: "Data on ratios of seed, feed and waste"
- 25. Title should read "Telecommunication" instead of "Transportation."
- add: 26. Transportation: All railroad data, with priorities on the technical aspects of railroading; plans and developments in highways.
- 3. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held 4 May 1956 at 1400 hours in Room 2125 M Building.

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